DECLASSIFIED 11/14/52

I explained that we disagreed with the French on the question of competence but that we hoped this question would not come to a vote in the UN.

Ambassador Lequerica stated that the Spanish position was somewhat different from that of France. He said that the Spanish attitude towards Morocco was one of anti-colonialism and that Spain had always favored the full independence of Morocco, and took over the Spanish Zone as a sub-tenant from France only after the establishment of the French Protectorate there in order to avoid having a major European power in possession of the Moroccan Mediterranean coast. While the Spanish outlook toward Morocco differed from that of the French, the Ambassador continued, Spain was fully cognizant of the great work which France had done in promoting the economic and social development of the Moroccans. Furthermore, during the present period of confusion Spain will not contribute to further French difficulties. The Ambassador said that unfortunately the colonial question had become an extremely bitter one and that Spain did not entirely agree with the approach of the colonial powers but felt that a more moderate line was called for. He cited the much less strained relations existing between the nationalists in the Spanish Zone of Morocco with the Spanish authorities as compared with the considerable bitterness which the French Zone nationalists hold toward the Residency authorities.

I concluded on the note that the US opposes any agitation in North Africa and that we believe the continuation of the French presence in North Africa is required in order to prevent a disastrous situation from developing in that area.

David Bruce

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

PREVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81

☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

EUR:WE:RHMcBride:em

DECLASSIFIED